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Purpose	To learn how to use French curves and templates to create refined curves.
Materials	French curves, circle and ellipse templates, ruler, 8.5 " x 11" Bristol board, t-square, triangle, masking tape, X–acto knife and blade, 01 Micron pen, Prisma Brush, mechanical pencils, lead pointer, eraser Studio Tac.

3.0

Procedure

Using Studio Tac, mount the page with the lower case Helvetica **a** (page 4) onto a sheet of Bristol board trimmed to 8.5 " x 11". Make sure that the page is well-burnished in place on the Bristol.

Bristol board
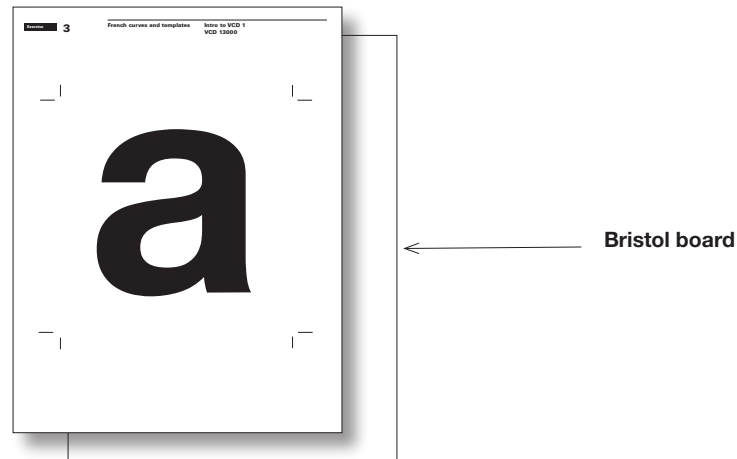
3.1

Using masking tape, hinge a piece of marker paper to the top of the completed, mounted letter form. You will be using templates to recreate the letter form: First in pencil, and then finalized in 01 Micron pen.

Marker paper
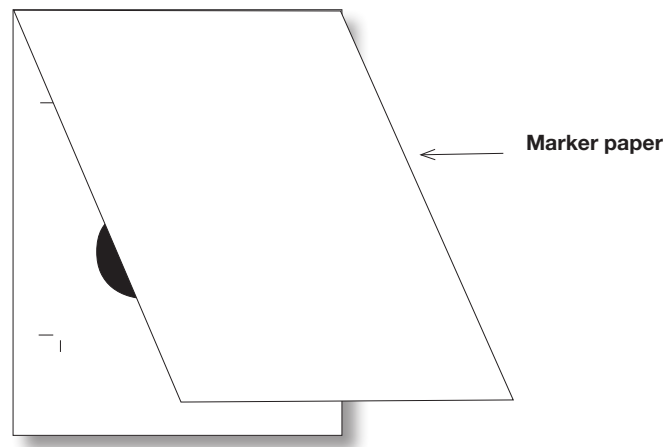
3.2　　　　　　　　　**Procedure**

Trace your French curves onto a piece of tracing paper. Flip the French curve over and trace the tool again. You will use the tracings as maps to record the curves that you have found on the French curves that match the curves of the letter form. This is because you will draw the curves in pencil and then return with the tool to render in ink (01 Micron pen).

You will be constructing your drawing of the letter form in segments using French curves, ruler and the circle and ellipse templates.

Rotate the tool on top of the marker paper until you find a curve that matches as much of the letter form's curve as possible. The curve of the tool should match just a bit more of the curve than you will actually draw. This will help ensure that the next line that you draw with the tool will attach gracefully to the previous line that you have drawn.

Carefully trace the segment of the curve that you have found on the marker paper with your pencil. Mark that segment lightly with the letter A and record where that segment may be found again on the map of the tool that you made (see the example below).

A
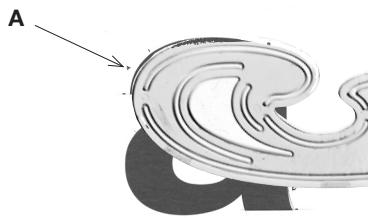
Matching the curve of the tool to the curve of the letter form.

A
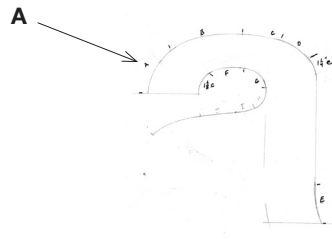
**In pencil, draw the curve using the tool and mark the area with a "code" e.g. an A**

A
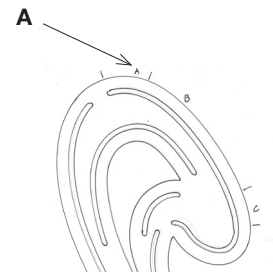
Record the spot on the tracing of the tool so you can find it again when you are ready to render the outline of the letter form in ink.

Repeat these steps for the rest of the letter.

3.3 **Procedure**

When you are confident that the template is correct, retrace the letterform using your french curves, etc with your 01 Micron pen, being careful to avoid burrs (abrupt shifts from one template segment to another) in the counterform. If you accidentally create burrs, find another template that will smooth out the burr. When your tracing is complete, cut all three pieces (marker paper, template and bristol) to the crop marks (see below). **DO NOT ERASE YOUR PENCIL NOTATIONS.**
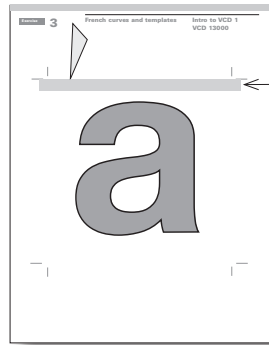
Using your cork backed ruler, use the crop marks as a guide to trim out the 6x6 inch square. Don't cut through to the edge of the paper as you will cut off the other crop marks that you will need for the other cuts.

Finished 6x6 project. Masking tape holding marker paper overlay (your work) on top of mounted letter form. Fold extra tape around the back and trim neatly at the edges.

3.4

Photocopy your outline onto laser paper and fill in the form of your Helvetica **a** with Pigma brush and Micron pens. To avoid overworking areas with the brush, practice before applying ink to the copy. Begin working from the center of the form and move, evermore carefully, to the edges. Wait for this to dry and then crop to 6" x 6".

Your name
VCD 1
Exercise 3
Oct. 2

To turn in:
1. the marker paper (NOT inked in), template and bristol, taped together along the entire top, trimmed to 6 x 6
2. the photocopy inked in, trimmed to 6 x 6 and loose (not bound with marker paper)
3. your tracing paper template for your french curves

Put your info in the lower right corner on the back of all pieces.

a